



<b>REPORT TO:</b>	Licensing Committee
<b>DATE:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2015
<b>LEAD OFFICER:</b>	Head of Planning and Public Protection
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<b>SUBJECT:</b>	Proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy

## **1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.2 To present to Members a proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy.

## **2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- 2.1 In line with the Forward Work Programme, agreed in March 2014, a full review of the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Policy was requested.
- 2.2 Approval is now sought to present this draft Policy document for consultation with the trade, the travelling public and other representative bodies.

## **3. POWER TO MAKE THE DECISION**

- 3.1 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 and Town Police Clauses Act 1847

## **4. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Taxis and private hire vehicles have a specific role to play in an integrated transport system. They are able to provide services in situations where public transport is either not available (for example in rural areas, or outside “normal” hours of operation, such as in the evenings or on Sundays), or for those with mobility difficulties.
- 4.2 Members will recall that a report was presented back in June 2015 outlining an Action Plan to assist Officers in undertaking a full review of the existing Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy, (including specification and conditions). This included two workshop sessions where the taxi trade, Elected Members and Fleet Services were involved, followed by a presentation to Members of the Licensing Committee by Fleet Services.

4.3 The review process has resulted in this draft Hackney Carriage & Private Hire Vehicle Policy, that sets out the policies, vehicle specification, conditions and procedures that the Council wishes now to apply in exercising its vehicle licensing function. A copy of the draft Policy can be found at Appendix 1 together with a table of major changes for ease of reference at Appendix 2.

4.4 The Department for Transport (DFT) has national responsibility for taxi and private hire legislation outside London in England and Wales. The DFT Best Practice Guidance is directed at local authorities in England and Wales with responsibility for taxi and PHV licensing. The document represents the Department for Transport's considered views about what constitutes "Best or Good Practice" in terms of hackney carriage and private hire licensing. It has, therefore, been used as a valuable tool to help shape this Policy

## 5. **CONSULTATION**

5.1 Before adopting the Policy, however, the Council wishes to consult with those who may be affected by it. It is committed to considering any representations made as a result and, if necessary, to amending the draft in the light of representations received

5.2 If approved by the Licensing Committee, the draft Policy document will undertake a period of 8 weeks public consultation. All members of the trade (drivers/proprietors/owners/operators) will be contacted and given the opportunity to view the draft Policy document, either 'on line' by the provision of a link or a hard copy, and they will be encouraged to submit comments. Representative bodies ie Disability Groups, Town and Community Councils etc, will be consulted with and it is proposed that a press release be issued with details of the consultation and how to view it.

5.3 Following the consultation, Officers will take all relevant responses into consideration. It is intended that a report outlining the responses received and the amended Policy document (as required), will be presented to the Licensing Committee in 2016.

## 6. **RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 That Members approve the proposed Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy found at Appendix 1, for public consultation

6.2 Following consultation a report on the final draft of the Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Policy together with any relevant representations received be brought back to the committee for formal approval